

Attorney Docket No. 16355-002580
re NIKOLCHEV ET AL.
Preliminary Amendment

PATENT

Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph under the heading CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS with the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/912,067, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/592,123 filed on June 12, 2000, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/324,078 filed on June 1, 1999, which is a continuation-in-part of ~~International Application No. PCT/US98/20031, filed September 23, 1998, which is a continuation-in-part of~~ U.S. Patent Application No. 09/093,835, filed June 8, 1998, which claims the benefit of priority from U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/059,861, filed September 24, 1997, and is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/475,252 filed June 7, 1995, ~~and a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/474,779 filed June 7, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 6,176,240, the~~ full disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.